

The gentlemen who pray the Salat first

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The five prayers that are obligatory on Muslims were performed first by the Prophets (peace be upon him) to understand how great these prayers are and how remarkable they are.

Fajr Prayer:

The Fajr prayer, who first performed in this world was Hazrat Adam (peace be upon him). Hazrat Adam (AS) was in heaven before he came to this world and his wife Hazrat Hawa (Eve) (peace be upon him) was also with him in heaven. Then Allah Almighty sent them to the world with His wisdom so that their descendants would continue in the world.

Almighty Allah says!

قُلْنَا اهْبِطُوا مِنْهَا جَمِيعًا ۚ فَمَا يَأْتِيَنَّكُمْ مِنِّي هُدًى فَمَنْ تَبِعَ هُدَايَ فَلَا خَوْفٌ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا هُمْ يَحْزَنُونَ ﴿٣٨﴾ وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا وَكَذَّبُوا بِآيَاتِنَا أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ النَّارِ ۖ هُمْ فِيهَا خَالِدُونَ ﴿٣٩﴾

(Surah Al Baqarah: 38 – 39)

We said: "Get down all of you from this place (the Paradise), then whenever there comes to you Guidance from Me, and whoever follows My Guidance, there shall be no fear on them, nor shall they grieve (38) But those who disbelieve and belie Our Ayat (proofs, evidences, verses, lessons, signs, revelations, etc.)- such are the dwellers of the Fire, they shall abide therein forever. (39)

When Hazrat Adam (AS) came to the world from heaven, it was night in the world at that time. There was dark everywhere. Hazrat Adam (AS) came from Paradise where there was no sign of darkness. Without the moon and the sun, was light everywhere in the Heaven. It was never darkness there. When Hazrat Adam (AS) came to the world from such a bright place, and at that time it was night here, and the night in which there is no moon. Everywhere was darkness, so Hazrat Adam (AS) was worried and worried about how he would live in this dark place. He can never move anywhere. Nothing was visible. Prophets (AS) have a great

ability to understand natural matters. He was praying to Allah Ta'ala in this state of trouble. The night has for the specific time, it has to end and then the day comes. Therefore, when the night began to pass and the light of the righteous morning appeared from the east, Hazrat Adam (AS) took the breath of comfort. As soon as he saw it, light spread everywhere. Hazrat Adam (AS) offered two rak'ats prayers in gratitude for seeing the light. One Rak'at was performed in gratitude for the end of the darkness of the night and another Rak'at in gratitude for the dawn of the day before sunrise. Allah Ta'ala liked his these two Rak'ats so much that on the Night of Ascension, Allah Ta'ala made these two Rak'ats obligatory on the Ummah of the Holy Prophet (ﷺ).

Zuhr Prayer:

Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) performed the Zuhr prayer first. The four rak'ats of Zuhr were performed first by Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) in this world. Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) was tested by Allah in which he saw in a dream that he was slaughtering his son Hazrat Ismail (AS).

Allah Almighty said in the Quran:

فَلَمَّا بَلَغَ مَعَهُ السَّعْيَ قَالَ يُبْنَىٰ إِنَّي أَرَىٰ فِي الْمَنَامِ أَنِّي أَذْبَحُكَ فَانْظُرْ مَاذَا تَرَىٰ ۚ قَالَ يَٰأَبَتِ افْعَلْ
مَا تَوَمَّرُ ۚ سَتَجِدُنِي إِن شَاءَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٠٢﴾ فَلَمَّا أَسْلَمَا وَتَلَّهِ لِلْجَبِينِ ﴿١٠٣﴾ وَنَادَيْنَاهُ
أَن يَأْتِرْ هَيْمُ ﴿١٠٤﴾ قَدْ صَدَّقَتِ الرُّعْيَا ۚ إِنَّا كَذَلِكْ نَجْزِي الْمُحْسِنِينَ ﴿١٠٥﴾ إِنَّ هَذَا لَهُوَ
الْبَلَاءُ الْمُبِينُ ﴿١٠٦﴾ وَفَدَيْنَاهُ بِذَبْحٍ عَظِيمٍ ﴿١٠٧﴾

(Surah Al Saffat: 102 – 107)

And, when he (his son) was old enough to walk with him, he (AS) said: "O my son! I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you (offer you in sacrifice to Allah), so look what you think!" He (AS) said: "O my father! Do that which you are commanded, In-Sha-Allah (if Allah will), you shall find me of As-Sabireen (the patient)." (102) Then, when they had both submitted themselves (to the Will of Allah), and he had laid him prostrate on his forehead (or on the side of his forehead for slaughtering); (103) And We called out to him: "O Abraham (AS)! (104) You have fulfilled the dream!" Verily! thus do We reward the Muhsineen (good-doers). (105) Verily, that indeed was a manifest trial. (106) And We ransomed him with a great sacrifice (i.e., a ram); (107)

The dreams of the Prophets (AS) are true, they are under the command of revelation. As Hazrat Gabriel (as) comes with a revelation, it is necessary to act on it, and if one sees someone doing an act in a dream, then it is also necessary to act on it like a revelation. This meant that Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) had to slaughter his son Hazrat Ismail (AS). That is why he first inquired from his son Hazrat Ismail (AS). Son! I dreamed that I was slaughtering you. What is your opinion about this? He was also humble, tolerant, obedient and submissive. He immediately said! Dad! Fulfill the order you have received, you will find me patient, Allah willing. So Hazrat Ibrahim (A.S.) took a rope and a knife and Hazrat Ismail (A.S.) from Makkah, on the way to Mina, where the pebbles are thrown on Jamrah Aqaba, ahead of it is Manhar Ismail (A.S.). This was the place where Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) tried to slaughter Hazrat Ismail (AS). Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) started slaughtering Hazrat Ismail (AS) lying down, but Allah Almighty did not intend to slaughter Hazrat Ismail (AS), so Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) could not slaughter Hazrat Ismail (AS) despite his efforts. Allah said:

O Abraham! You made the dream come true. And thus, We reward the good people for their good deeds. Allah Almighty sent a ram from Paradise in place of Hazrat Ishmael (AS) and this ram was slaughtered by Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) in the name of Allah. This was the severe test on which Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) passed. When he successfully passed this exam, he offered four Rak'ats prayers as a thanks. It was Zuhr time.

One Rak'at for passing this exam, second Rak'at as thanksgiving for the fact that Allah Almighty had spoken to Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) and said that you have made the dream come true. sent a ram to be slaughtered and offered the third rak'ah as a thanks, the fourth rak'ah to express gratitude that Allah had given him a son who succeeded in this severe test. It became the source of his success. How could he pass this tough test if he had not an obedient son? Allah Ta'ala liked these four rak'ats of Hazrat Ibrahim (AS) so much that Allah Ta'ala made these four rak'ats of Zuhr obligatory upon the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad (ﷺ).

Asr Prayer:

Asr prayer was first performed by Hazrat Yunus (AS). When he went into the belly of the fish, there he was within the four darkness. One was the darkness of the night, the second darkness was covered with clouds and was dark, the third darkness was the darkness under the water, the fish was under the water and the fourth darkness was the darkness of the belly of the fish. In this four darkness from which there was apparently no possibility of escape. He (AS) called Allah Ta'ala!

وَذَا النُّونِ إِذْ ذَهَبَ مُغَاضِبًا فَظَنَّ أَنْ لَنْ نَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ فَنَادَى فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ ^{عَلَى}
 إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ ﴿٨٧﴾ فَاسْتَجَبْنَا لَهُ وَنَجَّيْنَاهُ مِنَ الْغَمِّ ۖ وَكَذَلِكَ نُنْجِي الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ﴿٨٨﴾

(Surah Al Anbiya: 87 – 88)

And (remember) Dhun-Nun (Jonah), when he went off in anger, and imagined that We shall not punish him (i.e., the calamities which had befallen him)! But he cried through the darkness (saying): La ilaha illa Anta [none has the right to be worshipped but You (O Allah)], Glorified (and Exalted) are You [above all that (evil) they associate with You]. Truly, I have been of the wrong-doers." (87) So, We answered his call, and delivered him from the distress. And thus, We do deliver the believers (who believe in the Oneness of Allah, abstain from evil and work righteousness) (88)

When Allah took him out of the belly of the fish and freed him from this torment, he prayed four rak'ats of gratitude for being freed from this four darkness. At that time, it was Asr time. These four rak'ats were performed by Hazrat Yunus (AS) as the first person in the world at the time of Asr. Allah Ta'ala liked these four Rak'ats so much that Allah Ta'ala made these four Rak'ats obligatory on the ummah of His Beloved Prophet (ﷺ) at the time of Asr.

Maghrib Prayer:

Hazrat Dawood (AS) was the first to perform the three rak'ats of Maghrib prayer in this world. There was a slip-up with Hazrat Dawood (AS). Prophets (AS) are innocent before prophethood and also after prophethood. Being innocent means that they cannot commit any major or minor sins. Yes, there can be inappropriate things happened, which are called slips or Ijtihadi mistakes, which are not sins. When Hazrat Dawood (AS) realized his mistake, he turned to Allah and asked for forgiveness from Allah. Even though it was not a sin, but those who are high in rank, they feel sorry in the presence of Allah Ta'ala even for trivial things and they ask for forgiveness. Therefore, Hazrat Dawood (A.S.) also turned to Allah Almighty for his mistake and asked for his forgiveness, which Allah Almighty accepted and forgave him.

وَظَنَّ دَاوُدُ أَنَّهُ فَتَنَّهُ فَاسْتَغْفَرَ رَبَّهُ وَخَرَّ رَاكِعًا وَأَنَابَ ﴿٢٢﴾

فَغَفَرْنَا لَهُ ذَلِكَ وَإِنَّ لَهُ عِنْدَنَا لَزُلْفَىٰ وَحُسْنَ مَّآبٍ ﴿٢٥﴾

(Surah Saad: 24 – 25)

And Dawud (David) guessed that We have tried him and he sought Forgiveness of his Lord, and he fell down prostrate and turned (to Allah) in repentance. (24) So, We forgave him that, and verily, for him is a near access to Us, and a good place of (final) return (Paradise). (25)

When Hazrat Dawud (AS) came to know that Allah has forgiven his sin, he made an intention to pray four rak'ats as the thanks. He was so exhausted that the fourth rak'ah was not recited. He finished the prayer after three rak'ats. Allah Ta'ala liked these three rak'ats of his so much that these three rak'ats were made obligatory on the Muslim Ummah after sunset (Maghrib time).

Isha Prayer:

Isha prayer was first performed by Hazrat Musa (AS). Hazrat Musa (AS) stayed with Hazrat Shoaib (AS) for ten years after marrying his daughter and returning to Egypt from Madin. At that time, he had four concerns, four worries. One is that the road was very long, his wife was pregnant and the delivery was expected at any time. There was concern that what would happen to her if she gave birth during this lonesome journey. He was going off the renowned track. If such a case happens to someone during the journey, it is a matter of great concern. The journeys of that time were not like the journeys of today, there were many difficulties in the journey. He was worried about his brother Hazrat Haroon (A.S.) that he had no news about his condition after coming from Egypt. The fourth concern was that I am going to Egypt, where the Pharaoh is his mortal enemy, and a Pharaoh's man was also killed inadvertently by his hand. Due to this murder, he left Egypt to Madin to save his life. Pharaoh was looking for him to kill.

He had reached such a place that he could not understand which direction has to go next. It was night time. He tried to ignite a fire with a flint (a kindling stone) but the fire could not burn and there was no light. It was winter, so there was cold too. At the same time, he saw a light on the mountain as if it was burning. Hazrat Musa (AS) said to his wife, "You stay here. I will go and see. If I find fire there, I will bring it." When Hazrat Musa (AS) reached there, he was blessed with a conversation with Allah. Allah Ta'ala told him that you have come to this holy

valley, take off your shoes. I have chosen you for prophethood, so listen attentively to what is being revealed to you.

Allah says in the Holy Quran!

إِذْ قَالَ مُوسَىٰ لِأَهْلِهِ إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا ۖ سَأَتِينَكُم مِّنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ أَوْ بَشِيرٍ ۖ قَبْسٍ لَّعَلَّكُمْ تَصْطَلُونَ ﴿٧﴾ فَلَمَّا جَاءَهَا نُودِيَ أَنْ بُورِكَ مَنْ فِي النَّارِ وَمَنْ حَوْلَهَا ۖ وَسُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٨﴾ يُمُوسَىٰ إِنَّهُ أَنَا اللَّهُ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ ﴿٩﴾

(Surah Al Namam: 7 – 9)

(Remember) when Musa (AS) (Moses) said to his household: "Verily! I have seen a fire, I will bring you from there some information, or I will bring you a burning brand, that you may warm yourselves." (7) But when he came to it, he was called: "Blessed is whosoever is in the fire, and whosoever is round about it! And glorified is Allah, the Lord of the 'Aalamîn (mankind, jinn and all that exists). (8) "O Musa (AS) (Moses)! Verily! It is I, Allah, the All-Mighty, the All-Wise. (9)

The second place Allah Almighty says!

فَلَمَّا قَضَىٰ مُوسَى الْأَجَلَ وَسَارَ بِأَهْلِهِ آنَسَ مِنْ جَانِبِ الطُّورِ نَارًا ۚ قَالَ لِأَهْلِهِ امْكُثُوا إِنِّي آنَسْتُ نَارًا ۚ لَّعَلِّي آتِيَكُم مِّنْهَا بِخَبَرٍ أَوْ جَذْوَةٍ مِّنَ النَّارِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَصْطَلُونَ ﴿٢٩﴾ فَلَمَّا أَتَاهَا نُودِيَ مِنْ شَاطِئِ الْوَادِ الْأَيْمَنِ فِي الْبُقْعَةِ الْمُبْرَكَةِ مِنَ الشَّجَرَةِ أَنْ يُمُوسَى إِنِّي أَنَا اللَّهُ رَبُّ الْعَالَمِينَ ﴿٣٠﴾

(Surah Al Qasas: 29 – 30)

Then, when Musa (AS) (Moses) had fulfilled the term, and was travelling with his family, he saw a fire in the direction of Toor (Mount). He said to his family: "Wait, I have seen a fire; perhaps I may bring you from there some information, or a burning fire-brand that you may warm yourselves." (29) So, when he reached it (the fire), he was called from the right side of the valley, in the blessed place from the tree: "O Musa (AS) (Moses)! Verily! I am Allah, the Lord of the 'Aalamîn (mankind, jinn and all that exists)! (30)

The four sorrows of Hazrat Musa (AS) ended with the words he spoke to Allah Ta'ala. Because Allah Ta'ala had removed all his sorrows and saved him from a great difficulty. It was Isha time. Allah Ta'ala was so pleased with the four rak'ats of Hazrat Musa (AS) that He made these four rak'ats obligatory on the Ummah of his beloved Habib (ﷺ) at the time of Isha.

It is mentioned in another narration that the four rak'ats of Isha were recited by the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) the first.

The thanksgiving prayers offered by the previous Prophets (AS) were at such a high level of acceptance that Allah Ta'ala made them obligatory upon His most beloved Ummah. This gives us a lesson that whenever a person receives a blessing, he should pray as a thanks. The lowest level of thanksgiving is to say Alhamdulillah with the tongue and the best is to offer two rak'ats of gratitude. One should get into the habit of reciting the Nafil of gratitude. There are evidences of praying thanksgiving in the lives of all the prophets (AS) and when the Holy Prophet (ﷺ) also performed this prayer, it becomes obligatory for us.

Whenever we receive a worldly or religious blessing, we should immediately offer two rak'ats Nafil prayers as a thanks. The way to give thanks with the tongue is to say Alhamdulillah and the way to give thanks with the body is to pray the Nafil prayer. These five prayers are the continuing charity of the Prophets (AS) which will continue until the Day of Judgment. We should also participate in what is being done as charity so that even after our death we will receive the reward. A continuous charity is to commit to the prayers, then make your children to make the prayers and they make their children to make them. Thus, it will become a continuous charity for us. Good children also give charity.

(Excerpted from the statement of Hazrat Maulana Abdul Rauf Sukkurvi)